



Watershed Stewards Academy

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

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Photo based on: "horizon" by pierreyves @ flickr



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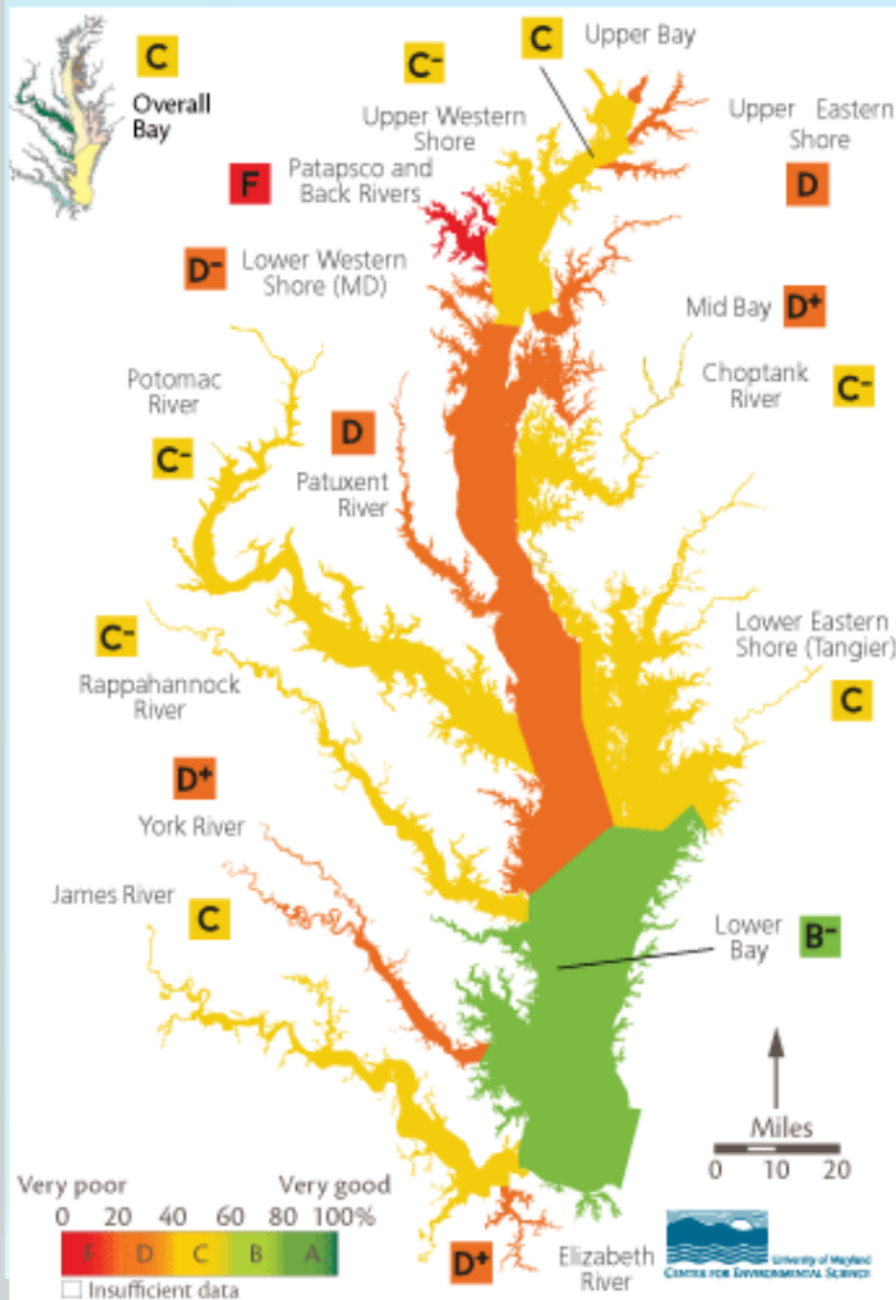


Maryland Sea Grant Extension Watershed Protection & Restoration Program

Providing “on the ground” specialists to local and county governments and community partners to increase capacity building, ensure project implementation and success, and foster outreach and education efforts.



“Perfect Storm”



- MS4 Permits
- 2009 Maryland Stormwater Regs
- Bay TMDL (\$14.4 billion in MD \$7.4 billion urban stormwater)
- Increase in water/sewer bills
- Stormwater Utility Fees

BUT really, why...



What is the WSA?

A well-trained diverse group of volunteers conversant in stormwater issues, who *educate*, *design*, and *implement* projects aimed at reducing stormwater runoff and improving local water quality



Vision

Empower communities to restore the landscape, one watershed at a time



2014



2013



2011



2009



On the horizon 2016



Format of the Academy

- Roughly 14 weeks of coursework
- Class and Action projects
- Consortium of support professionals
- Continuing education
- Stewards live within the community and are an ongoing presence effecting long term change





The SMART Tool

About

Contact

Address, ZIP C

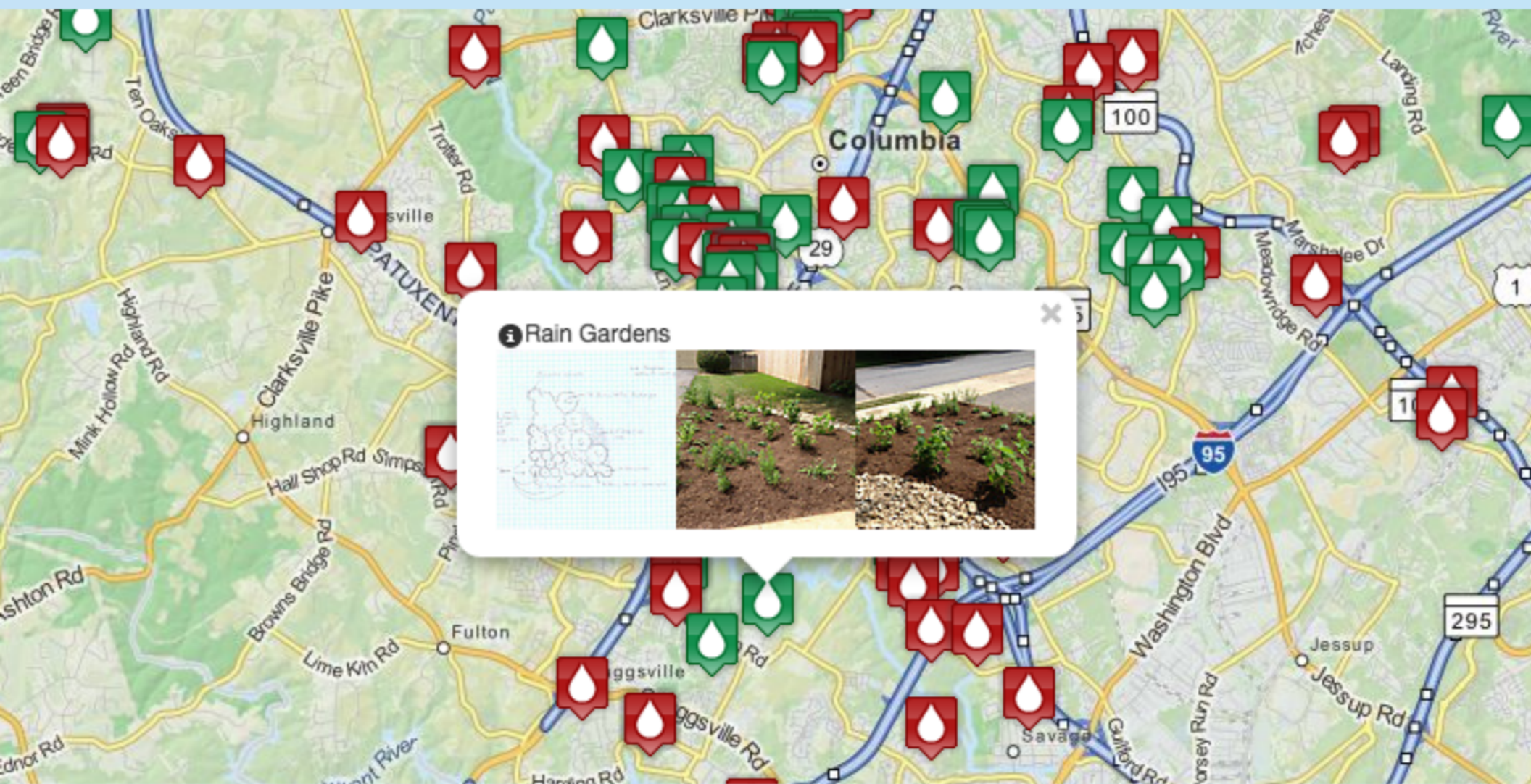
Search

Instructions (PDF)



Putting your practice to work!





WSA Program Distinction # 1

Support Structure

- Strong connection to local government
- Consortium of support professionals
- Ability to create management structure that is best for geographic and political realities



WSA Program Distinction # 2

Hands On Training

- Training provides stewards with a very specific skill set
- Training connects stewards and resources



WSA Program Distinction #3

Ongoing Volunteer Involvement

- Steward network
- Continuing education requirements
 - Annual volunteer hours
- Networking meetings



WSA Program Highlights

IMPACTS

300 ppl certified as Master Watershed Stewards

861,960 sf of small-scale stormwater BMPs implemented


41,175 native plants planted

19,800 volunteer hours valued at **\$438,372** (\$22.14/hour)

\$850,000 dollars leveraged

16,500 ppl reached

Replication Strategy



Expand Citizen Stewardship

Objective: Foster a dramatic increase in the number of citizen stewards of every age who support and carryout local conservation and restoration.

10-15 Local Chapters

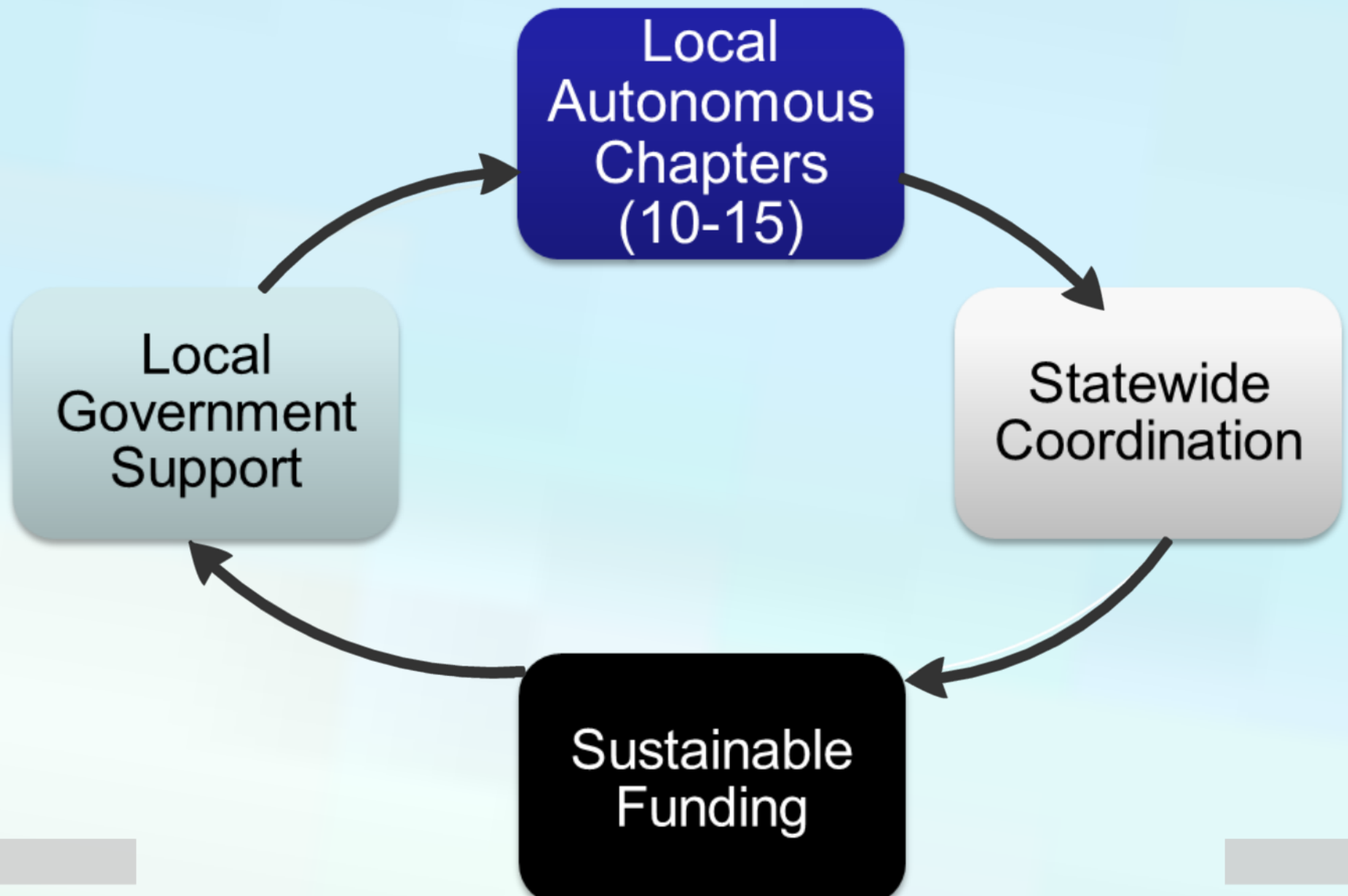
Statewide Coordination and Support

Federal Funding Support

2009, Chesapeake Bay Executive Order

Replication Strategy

Components of a sustainable WSA program...



Expanding the WSA Program

Local Autonomous WSA Chapters

Between \$50,000 and \$150,000/year for a start-up program
\$250,000/year for a mature program

Community/Local Government match of 50% cash or in kind

Per Chapter, this covers:

- 1-2 staff
- Materials and supplies for training including plants and materials, office supplies, printing
- Contractual-Project Design/Construction



Statewide Coordination

\$50,000- \$250,000/year

- 1-2 staff
- Trainings for local chapters
- Website
- Database
- Evaluator
- Fiscal oversight/admin support
- Graphic design/ marketing materials
- Printing



Next Steps

WSA and UME partners will:

- Finalize transferability package
- Curriculum and Support materials
- Training and Mentoring Program
- Establish 2 more WSA programs in 2016-2018





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<http://extension.umd.edu/watershed/>

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